

## Provincial Congress

Wednesday, 26 October, 1774~ Formation of the Minute Men.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several companies of militia in this province, who have not already chosen and appointed officers, that they meet forthwith and elect officers to command their respective companies; and that the officers so chosen assemble as soon as may be; and where the said officers shall judge the limits of the present regiments too extensive, that they divide them, and settle and determine their limits and proceed to elect field officers to command the respective regiments so formed; and that the field officers so elected, forthwith endeavor to enlist one quarter, at the least, of the number of the respective companies, and form them into companies of fifty privates; at the least, who shall equip and hold themselves in readiness, on the shortest notice from the said committee of safety, to march to the place of rendezvous; and that each and every company so formed choose a captain and two lieutenants to command them on any such emergent and necessary service as they may be called to by the committee of safety aforesaid; and that the said captains and subalterns so elected, form the said companies into battalions, to consist of nine companies each; and that the said captains and subalterns of each battalion so formed, proceed to elect field officers to command the same. And this Congress doth most earnestly recommend that all the aforesaid elections be proceeded in and made with due deliberation and generous regard for the public service.

The Army of Observation – March 30, 1775

On [the]... 30<sup>th</sup> of March, the Congress, sitting at Concord, after stating grievances and the evident preparations of the British to enforce the acts of Parliament, passed the following resolve:

“That whenever the Army under command of General Gage, or any part thereof to the Number of Five Hundred, shall march out of the Town of Boston, with Artillery and Baggage, it ought to be deemed a design to carry into execution by Force the late acts of Parliament, the attempting which, by the Resolve of the late Honorable Continental Congress, ought to be opposed; and therefore the Military Force of the Province ought to be assembled, and an Army of Observation immediately formed, to act solely on the defensive so long as it can be justified on the Principles of Reason and Self Preservation and no longer.”

Found among the Heath Papers, MHS.

April 14, 1775

FIREARMS	21,549
POUNDS OF POWDER	17,444
POUNDS OF LEAD BALLS	22,191
NUMBER OF FLINTS	144,699
NUMBER OF BAYONETS	10,108
NUMBER OF POUCHES	11,979